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CITRUS

FEBRUARY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

February 8, 2001

ALL ORANGES REDUCED TO 223.0 MILLION BOXES

The 2000-01 Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is decreased 2.6 percent to 223.0 million boxes. The forecasts are comprised of 127.0 million boxes of early and midseason oranges (including 5.5 million boxes of Navels) and 96.0 million boxes of Valencias. If realized, this will be 10 million boxes or four percent less than was certified last season. In the past ten seasons, the February forecast has differed from final recorded utilization by an average of 2.7 percent. Six seasons were above the final utilization and four were below.

Although several mornings of below freezing temperatures occurred in many groves prior to January, the coldest morning affecting nearly the entire citrus producing area of the State was on January 5. Minimum temperatures were recorded for long enough durations to indicate that damage to fruit and possible loss would occur. But because of the below normal temperatures since the first of November and the extensive use of irrigation to mitigate drought conditions and protect against cold weather, fruit damage was limited. A fruit cut survey conducted on January 18, approximately two weeks after the coldest weather, indicated very little drying in fruit.

Regular monthly size and drop surveys conducted in January, the monthly row count survey, and results of spot cutting of fruit were used as indicators in this forecast. Observations of leaf and tree condition indicate only slight leaf loss, mostly on younger

Citrus production, February 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Jan 10, 2001	Feb 8, 2001
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
FLORIDA	112,000	134,000	127,000	127,000
California	21,000	40,000	34,000	34,000
Texas	1,250	1,540	1,900	1,900
Arizona	550	600	500	500
Total Above Varieties	134,800	176,140	163,400	163,400
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	74,000	99,000	102,000	96,000
California	15,000	27,000	25,000	25,000
Texas	180	200	200	200
Arizona	600	500	550	550
Total Valencias	89,780	126,700	127,750	121,750
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	186,000	233,000	229,000	223,000
California	36,000	67,000	59,000	59,000
Texas	1,430	1,740	2,100	2,100
Arizona	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,050
Total All Oranges	224,580	302,840	291,150	285,150

FORECAST DATES 2000-01 SEASON

March 8, 2001 April 10, 2001
May 10, 2001 June 12, 2001
July 11, 2001

trees and in lower ground locations. Use of irrigation for freeze protection proved very beneficial in many groves.

EARLY & MIDSEASONS 127.0 MILLION BOXES

The early and midseason forecast remains at 127.0 million boxes. **Navels**, included in this forecast, remain at 5.5 million boxes. The Navel row count survey indicates about 20 percent of the rows remaining to be harvested. Slight loss from the cold weather and undesirability of Navels for processing may reduce this amount slightly. Although droppage of midseason oranges has increased following the cold weather, harvesters are moving into these groves quickly to minimize loss. The monthly row count survey fully supports the forecast and because of the continued cold weather in January and the rapid harvest, very little loss is anticipated.

VALENCIAS NOW 96.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is decreased 6.0 million boxes from 102.0 to 96.0 million boxes. Because of the below average temperatures all winter, fruit sizes have been and continue to be very small. Growth rates during January were below normal and only slight increases in size are anticipated for the rest of the season. Droppage of fruit was at record low levels before the cold weather but now is anticipated to increase. Harvest has started, mostly of freeze affected blocks which will minimize loss. However, other loss will occur throughout the season from reduced juice per box which requires more pieces of fruit to make a 90 lb equivalent box.

FCOJ 1.54 GALLONS PER BOX

The FCOJ yield per box for all oranges is decreased from 1.55 gallons per box to 1.54. The early-midseason portion remains unchanged at 1.51 gallons but the Valencia portion is decreased from 1.62 to 1.60. Although pounds of solids per box continues to increase, Valencia pounds of juice per box has decreased slightly indicating some drying of fruit from the cold weather.

TOTAL GRAPEFRUIT NOW AT 49.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast for all Florida grapefruit is lowered 1.0 million boxes to 49.0 million boxes. The reduction is entirely in the colored varieties, making the current forecast 29.0 million boxes. There is no change in the 20.0 million box total white grapefruit forecast, which includes the seedy (Duncan) variety. The total all grapefruit forecast is now 12 percent less than the record high 55.8 million boxes estimated for the 1996-97 season and eight percent less than the 53.4 million boxes recorded last season.

The January survey of fruit size showed a moderate increase from December in the average size of the regular bloom fruit on both varieties but slightly below what was projected last month. The average sizes this season have been, and continue to be, very small. With both varieties, there are only two seasons in the 10 season average that had a smaller average size. There is no expectation that the average fruit size of the regular bloom fruit will increase significantly for the remainder of the season.

The January survey of the fruit lost from droppage indicated a slightly higher monthly average loss than projected last month. However, this loss to mid-January is just above the lowest season in the 10 season average. It is anticipated that this factor will increase on the remainder of the crops.

The expansions of the survey data do not show indications to lower the all white grapefruit forecast. However, in the colored varieties, the fruit size and droppage changes are sufficient to warrant the reduced forecast.

The first harvest survey (Row Count) for grapefruit was conducted on January 29-

Citrus production, February 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Jan 10, 2001	Feb 8, 2001
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	47,050	53,400	50,000	49,000
White ^{1/}	18,350	21,500	20,000	20,000
Colored	28,700	31,900	30,000	29,000
Texas	6,100	5,930	6,500	6,500
Arizona	750	500	600	600
California	7,300	7,000	7,200	7,200
Total Grapefruit	61,200	66,830	64,300	63,300
Lemons:				
California	16,200	19,600	21,000	21,000
Arizona	3,450	3,100	3,400	3,400
Total Lemons	19,650	22,700	24,400	24,400
Limes: Florida	500	600	250	250
Temples: Florida	1,800	1,950	1,800	1,800
Tangelos: Florida	2,550	2,200	2,100	2,100
K-Early: Florida	80	110	60	40
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	4,950	7,000	6,200	5,600
Early ^{2/}	3,050	4,350	3,700	3,500
Honey	1,900	2,650	2,500	2,100
California ^{3/}	1,500	2,300	2,200	2,200
Arizona ^{3/}	950	850	800	800
Total Tangerines	7,400	10,150	9,200	8,600

^{1/} Includes seedy. ^{2/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{3/} Includes tangelos.

30. The indication of row harvest versus utilization was above the current forecast for both varieties. However, because of the seasonal variability of "spot picking" and other harvest situations, this initial survey is not considered a primary forecast indicator.

Utilization of both white and colored grapefruit is lagging behind last season. Maturity levels and small sizes because of the long period of dry weather and colder than normal temperatures are the basic causes. As of January 29, 2001, white seedless utilization is 3.0 million boxes as compared with 4.2 million boxes last year. There have been no certifications of Duncan to that date. Colored at 9.1 million boxes is 1.7 million boxes less than the 10.8 million boxes to that date last season.

ALL TANGERINES DOWN 0.6 MILLION BOXES

The forecast for all varieties of tangerines is reduced 0.6 million boxes to 5.6 million boxes. The early category, **Fallglo, Robinson, Sunburst** and **Dancy**, are lowered 0.2 million boxes to 3.5 million boxes. The late variety, **Honey**, is now at 2.1 million boxes, down 0.4 million boxes.

The early tangerine harvest is almost over, with only a few thousand boxes estimated to have been used the last week in January. Even though there may be some remaining, their use is doubtful. Last season 4.35 million boxes were recorded.

Although **Honey** tangerine certifications are ahead of last season, the January surveys of fruit size and drop indicated the reduction. The average fruit size was less than projected and the loss factor increased considerably. However, the loss factor to late January is still below the 10 season average. Last season the loss factor was the least in the 10 season series. The below freezing weather in some locations may have been a factor that will accelerate harvest.

TEMPLES STAY AT 1.8 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is continued at 1.8 million boxes. The January surveys of fruit size and loss confirmed the projections of below average size and above average droppage that have continued through this season. The harvest season has just started and may accelerate rapidly, as the loss factor increases. Last season over 77 percent of the recorded crop went into processed use.

TANGELOS HELD AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The 2.1 million box tangelo forecast is maintained. The route survey indicated that there are more than sufficient unharvested rows to complete the forecast. As of January 30, approximately 0.4 million boxes remained. Last season 66 percent of the crop was processed.

K-EARLY'S FINAL AT 40,000 BOXES

The final estimate for K-Early Citrus Fruit is 40,000 boxes. This ties the record low utilization of the 1997-98 season.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1999-00 and 2000-01 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

ORANGES:

Early (49-44)

Sep 1	1.81	1.65	9.30	9.75	5.25	6.03	40.67	42.10	3.78	4.11
Oct 1	1.26	1.12	9.28	9.82	7.54	8.97	45.91	48.76	4.25	4.78
Nov 1	0.99	1.00	9.69	10.70	9.99	11.11	49.96	51.58	4.84	5.51
Dec 1	0.83	0.90	10.80	11.40	13.13	13.05	50.59	51.57	5.46	5.87
Jan 1	0.78	0.82	11.44	12.07	14.84	15.02	49.86	50.40	5.70	6.07
Feb 1	0.76	0.78	12.44	12.73	16.61	16.62	48.61	48.43	6.05	6.16

Mid (36-23)

Sep 1	2.01	1.76	9.13	9.25	4.60	5.32	39.19	44.66	3.58	4.14
Oct 1	1.41	1.23	9.11	9.40	6.54	7.79	46.74	49.97	4.26	4.69
Nov 1	1.11	1.07	9.54	10.37	8.74	9.97	51.25	53.12	4.89	5.51
Dec 1	0.93	0.95	10.93	11.40	11.92	12.19	52.07	53.31	5.69	6.08
Jan 1	0.89	0.90	12.01	12.11	13.62	13.86	51.69	52.52	6.20	6.36
Feb 1	0.84	0.86	12.80	12.97	15.44	15.48	50.60	49.37	6.48	6.42

Late (150-149)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.51	2.44	8.55	8.79	3.45	3.65	43.36	46.56	3.71	4.09
Nov 1	2.06	2.00	8.72	9.46	4.30	4.80	47.53	50.77	4.15	4.81
Dec 1	1.70	1.74	9.81	10.36	5.85	6.03	51.38	52.14	5.04	5.40
Jan 1	1.47	1.51	10.81	11.10	7.43	7.46	52.51	54.26	5.68	6.02
Feb 1	1.34	1.40	11.68	11.86	8.83	8.57	52.67	53.59	6.15	6.36

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, February 1, 2001

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds

ORANGES:

Early

Indian River Dist.	2	0.74	12.45	16.87	46.77	5.81
Other Areas	42	0.78	12.74	16.60	48.51	6.18

Midseason

Indian River Dist.	4	0.97	13.90	14.49	51.21	7.11
Other Areas	19	0.83	12.78	15.69	48.99	6.27

Late

Indian River Dist.	24	1.45	12.33	8.60	53.75	6.63
Other Areas	125	1.39	11.77	8.56	53.56	6.31

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the January size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period January 10 through 26, 2001. Comparable sizes for 1999 and 2000 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from January measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1999	2000	2001
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	5.4	9.4	2.8
80	23.7	27.6	16.0
100	40.3	37.2	40.0
125	23.6	20.0	31.8
163 and smaller	7.0	5.8	9.4
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	18.7	20.9	16.0
36	23.2	21.7	21.4
40	21.6	20.6	22.1
48	16.9	16.4	17.9
56	8.3	7.9	10.3
63 and smaller	11.3	12.5	12.3
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	10.0	9.8	6.8
36	18.9	18.6	14.9
40	20.8	22.7	24.5
48	21.3	20.4	22.9
56	11.5	13.4	13.7
63 and smaller	17.5	15.1	17.2
Temples:			
80 and larger	35.3	38.4	31.4
100	43.2	33.9	40.0
120	16.3	21.0	23.0
156 and smaller	5.2	6.7	5.6
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	96.0	91.1	84.6
176	2.5	5.0	8.0
210	1.3	2.6	5.7
246	0.2	0.6	1.7
294 and smaller	0.0	0.7	0.0

The charts to the right compare the relationship of the January 2001 Valencia orange and white seedless grapefruit fruit size measurements with those taken in January 2000. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from January measurements.

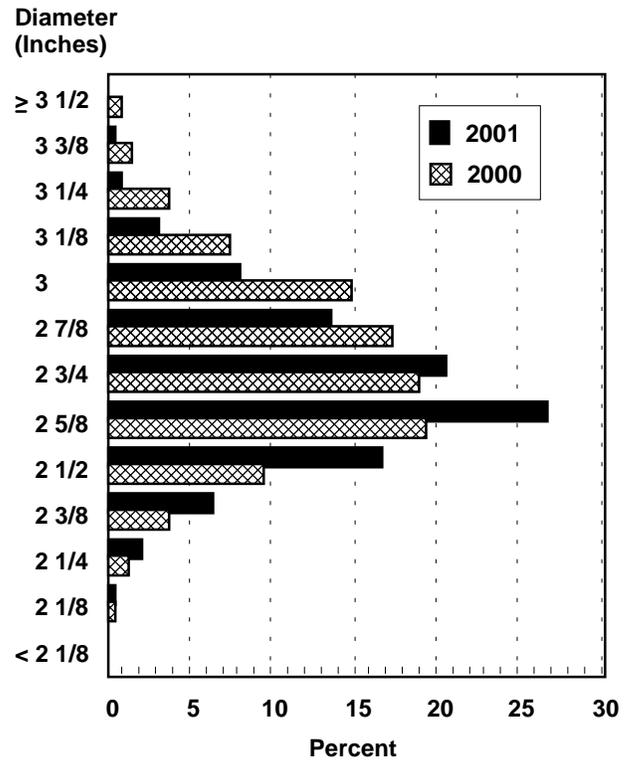


CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from January measurements.

